



Title: "Now Ride"

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Series: Matthew

Text: Matthew 10

Synopsis: If you're a parent of an older child you can probably remember buying them their first bike. You went to the store and carefully shopped for the one that was just right; pink with tassels and basket for a girl, or black (maybe red) with cool flame decals for a boy. Perhaps you can remember staying up all night on Christmas Eve putting the bike together so that you could hear your child squeal with delight when they first laid eyes on it.

You can also probably remember teaching your child to ride. You pushed them around for awhile, hands on the seat and handle bars, then you took your hand of the bars and ran behind the bike, pushing on the seat. Your child looks back with wide, fearful eyes saying "don't let go". When finally, you let go and your child begins to pedal ferociously, first out of fear of falling and then for the sheer thrill of mobility.

But what if you never let the kid go? What if after all that preparation and training, you lifted the child off the bike and got on it yourself and began to ride around the neighborhood, yourself squealing with delight? I think we could all agree that that would be ridiculous. The bike was never meant for you.

So it is with Jesus and his Church. In effect he is saying, "this bicycle, the message of the gospel, was never meant for me to ride. It was made for you. The law, the prophets, God's plan of redemption was all for you. I just put it together and made it possible. Now get on and ride. It's gonna be scary, but don't worry, I'll keep my hand on the seat."